

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 00272 140328Z

13-12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03

SS-15 NSC-05 /068 W

----- 085118

R 131452Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8570

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 0272

LONDON FOR CALWELL FROM POERT

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, LI

SUBJ: CIVAIR: FURTHER INFO ON BRITISH CALEDONIA INTENTIONS RE AIR
LIBERIA AND POSSIBLE RELATIONS TO GOL BILATERAL REQUEST

REF: A) STATE 6163 (NOTAL), B) MONROVIA 7845 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY SENT NOTE JAN 12 TO GOL INFORMING OF INABILITY USG
DISCUSS CIVAIR MATTERS PRIOR FEB 15. NOTE DID NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE
INFO THAT USG NOT IN FAVOR NEGOTIATING AT THIS TIME. THAT INFO
PASSED INFORMALLY BY EMBOFF.

2. IN CONVERSATION OTHER MATTERS WITH CHARGE, UK AMBASSADOR RIESS
VOLUNTEERED INFO THAT BRITISH CALEDONIA INTERESTED IN AIR LIBER-
IA MANAGEMENT CONTRACT TO GIVE IT BETTER ACCESS TO FRANCOPHONE
COUNTRIES. WHEN QUERIED, HE INDICATED B/CAL DEFINITELY NOT
RPT NOT INTERESTED IN US-LIBERIA SERVICE AND CITED AS PROOF
FACT THAT B/CAL HAD ALREADY GIVEN UP US TRAFFIC RIGHTS. COMMENT:
AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS CONFIRM HUTT'S OPINION (REPORTED REF A)
THAT B/CAL'S OBJECTIVE RE AIR IBERIA IS TO STRENGTHEN POSITION IN
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WEST AFRICA. B/CAL'S SUPPOSED NON-INTEREST IN ACCESS US FROM

AFRICA DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT GOL DOES NOT RELATE TWO ISSUES, AND PRESSING USG ON BILATERALS IN ORDER MAKE MORE ATTRACTIVE DEAL WITH B/CAL. WE DOUBT GOL UNDERSTANDS B/CAL'S REAL INTENTIONS ANY MORE THAN IT UNDERSTANDS POINT OF NATIONAL OWNERSHIP CONTAINED PARA 4 REF A. END COMMENT.

3. AT RECENT SOCIAL FUNCTION, EMBOFF ASKED B/CAL MANAGER VARLEY HOW AIR LIBERIA DEAL COMING. INITIALLY NON-PLUSED, VARLEY FINALLY REALIZED B/CAL POSITION RATHER OPEN SECRET AND INDICATED HE FELT IT PRETTY MUCH OF SURE THING, AND SAID HE WOULD BRIEF EMBOFF FULL DETAILS THIS WEEK AFTER RETURNING FROM BUSINESS TRIP. AS LATE AS YESTERDAY, AMB RIESS TOLD CHARGE DEAL FIRM AND THAT B/CAL TEAM EXPECTED ARRIVE THIS WEEK TO BEGIN WORKING ON CHANGE OVER.

4. HUTT PRESENTLY OUT OF TOWN, BUT WILL REPORT HIS COMMENTS UPON RETURN. ALSO EMBASSY HAS BEEN RATHER CHUMMY WITH CIVIL AIR OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE WORKED CLOSELY ON ENGINE RECOVERY PROBLEMS, AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE OBTAIN SOME INFO FROM GOL SOURCES ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE APPARENTLY WILL BE NO TOP LEVEL CHANGES IN COMMERCE MINISTRY.
BEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONROV00272
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760013-0326
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760163/aaaacdmd.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 6163
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: FURTHER INFO ON BRITISH CALEDONIA INTENTIONS RE AIR LIBERIA AND POSSIBLE RELATIONS TO GOL BILATERAL REQUEST
TAGS: EAIR, LI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006